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Division of Medicaid

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2002-10

DATE: May 10, 2002

TO: ALL IDAHO NURSING FACILITIES

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **WAIVER OF THE STATE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

For the last several years the Bureau of Facility Standards has been issuing waivers of the licensure requirement for residents' beds. IDAPA 16.03.02.122.01.a states:

- a. Each patient/resident shall be provided with his own bed which shall be at least thirty-six (36) inches wide, have a head and a footboard, be substantially constructed, and in good repair. Bedrails shall be provided when needed. Roll-away type beds, cots, folding beds, double beds, or hollywood-type beds shall not be used.

Typically, a facility would submit a letter requesting a waiver for a particular resident, showing how a waiver would help the facility to meet the resident's needs. A time-limited waiver was then issued by Facility Standards. This waiver was reviewed at the time of each standard survey and cited each time. The facility then had to request a renewal of the waiver each year.

This system has worked satisfactorily. However, it is time consuming and facilities object to having the deficiency each year. Further, we have never identified an incident where a facility misused a bed waiver. Therefore, we intend to make the following changes to this procedure:

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1. The facility will request the waiver for a specific resident only once.
2. If approved, the waiver will be issued.
3. The waiver will continue to be checked for appropriateness at each annual/standard survey.
4. The deficiency will **not** be cited at the annual/standard survey, unless the survey team determines that the waiver is no longer appropriate.

Waivers to allow bulk medication will be handled in this same manner. This waiver is available for residents who can save money if allowed to use bulk medication. Similarly, the facility must initiate the request for this waiver. The facility must agree to provide the extra nursing time needed to administer bulk medication safely.

It is our hope that these changes will save time for both providers and the Department, while still meeting the individual needs of all residents.

If you have questions regarding these issues, please contact Loretta Todd, R.N. or Diana Gassel, R.N., Supervisors, Long Term Care, at 208/334-6626.

[original signed by Debby Ransom]

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah

cc: Idaho Health Care Association